



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

May 5, 2015

Volume 14 Issue 4

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE COMING

MEMA is hosting a hurricane preparedness conference on May 28, 2015 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Norwood, MA. The 2015 Massachusetts Hurricane Preparedness Conference will bring together more than 250 emergency management professionals to share ideas and best practices as we all prepare for the upcoming 2015 hurricane season. The conference will feature presentations from James Franklin, National Hurricane Center; Dr. Jay Baker, Florida State University; and Matt Noyes, NECN. The interactive presentations will focus on hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation topics. Registration information for this free event can be found at



<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/mema/training/conferences/2015-hurricane-preparedness-conference/2015-mema-hurricane-conference-invitation.pdf>.

FEDERAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROCESS CONTINUES

On April 13, 2015, the President issued a Major Disaster Declaration (FEMA-4214-DR) for January 26-28 severe winter storm. The Declaration provides Public Assistance (PA) for ten counties (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester). The Declaration also provides Snow Assistance for nine counties (Barnstable, Bristol, Dukes, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester). Nine Applicant Briefings led by MEMA and FEMA staff were held across the Commonwealth May 4-8 to begin the formal application process. Details regarding the Disaster Declaration and application process for communities, state agencies and eligible private non-profits are available at www.mass.gov/mema.

SUCCESSFUL BOSTON MARATHON RACEDAY OPERATIONS

MEMA hosted the Public Safety Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the running of the Boston Marathon again this year. Beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Monday April 20, 2015, over 220 individuals representing more than 60 local, regional, state, federal, private and volunteer agencies and organizations staffed the MACC for the duration of the event. It was an incredibly successful day; despite the cold, wet conditions that the 30,000 runners endured on Patriot's Day, medical personnel along the course and at the finish line only experienced approximately 1,300 medical encounters. The MACC successfully connected local, state and federal emergency operations centers and command posts to provide and maintain situational awareness and a common operating picture, facilitate multi-jurisdictional decision making, and ensure effective communication and coordination between the BAA and public safety across the eight host cities and towns.

MEMA STAFF UPDATES

MEMA recently welcomed the following employees to the agency: Heather Smith, a Dispatcher in the Communications Unit, Charles MacMurray in the Fiscal Unit under the Administrative Services Section, and Pamela Carota, a Contract Specialist in the Disaster Recovery Unit under MEMA's Recovery & Mitigation Section. Hans Olson, who joined the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security's Homeland Security team, is working from MEMA's HQ. He is focusing on the prevention and protection mission areas of homeland security, with a particular emphasis on cyber and anti-terrorism policies and initiatives. Additionally, Chris Besse has transitioned into the new role of Social Media & Public Information Coordinator, as part of the Public Information Office.

TRAINING UPDATE

During March and April, MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit hosted 395 students in 16 different classes: *Basic Public Information Officer Course, ICS-300, ICS-400, Medical Preparedness & Response to Bombing Incidents, Improvised Explosive Device Awareness Management, Improvised Explosive Device Awareness/Bomb Threat Management, Field Force Operations, Improvised Explosive Device Counterterrorism, Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection, Field Force Extraction, Law Enforcement Protective Measures for CBRNE Incidents, Site Protection through Observational Techniques*. So far this year, 561 individuals have received training through MEMA programs. For additional MEMA Training opportunities, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

MEMA FIELD DEPLOYMENTS

During the months of March and April, MEMA utilized vehicles and personnel to support multiple events across the Commonwealth:

- March 6/7 – MEMA Mobile Communication Support Trailer (MCST) provided Communications support to the Town of Amherst for a major UMass campus event.
- April 12 – MEMA Mobile Emergency Operations Center 2 (MEOC) served as the unified command post for Mercy Fathers Sunday in the Town of Stockbridge.
- April 20 – MEMA MEOC 2 served as the unified command post for the Town of Brookline for the 11th running of the Boston Marathon. MEMA also deployed community liaisons to support the Emergency Operations Centers in each of the cities and towns that host the Marathon.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

MEMA and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are pleased to announce the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding. This post-disaster mitigation grant funding is now available statewide as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the January 26-28 severe winter storm. The federally-funded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides an opportunity to significantly reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population, structures and infrastructure, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery. MEMA will be hosting grant briefings to provide more detailed information about the grant program. These briefings will be held throughout the state. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. Please visit the MEMA Mitigation Grant website for more information at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hazard-mitigation/grants/>.

NEW ENGLAND EXPECTED TO MEET SUMMER POWER DEMAND

According to ISO New England Inc. the operators of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets, New England is expected to have sufficient electric generation and demand-response resources available to serve the forecasted peak demand this summer. This summer, under

normal weather conditions of about 90 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), electricity demand is forecasted to peak at 26,710 megawatts (MW). Extreme summer weather, such as an extended heat wave of about 94°F, could push demand up to 29,060 MW. These forecasts take into account the demand-reducing effect of 1,685 MW of energy-efficiency (EE) measures acquired through the Forward Capacity Market (FCM). New England has access to several types of resources to meet the summer's increased demand for power including generators that produce electricity, such as nuclear, oil, coal, natural gas, hydro, biomass, and wind; demand-response resources that can be activated to reduce their energy use; and power imported into New England from New York and Canada. If all generating resources in New England were operating at full output, the total amount of power produced would be approximately 30,325 MW. For further details, go to <http://www.iso-ne.com/about/news-media/press-releases>.

NWS SEEKING COOPERATIVE WEATHER OBSERVERS

The National Weather Service is looking to recruit Cooperative Weather Observers who are willing to take daily precipitation measurements, including snowfall. This is a commitment that entails daily weather observing 365 days a year. The search is for 'precipitation only' Coop Observers in the following areas: 1) Outer Cape Cod in the areas of Eastham, Wellfleet, Truro or Provincetown; 2) the island of Nantucket; 3) Coventry, Rhode Island; and 4) far northwest Massachusetts in the Charlemont area. NWS will provide the necessary equipment and training required to successfully become a Coop Observer. For more information about the Cooperative Program, go [HERE](#). Please contact NWS's Cooperative Program Manager, [Kim Buttrick](#), if you are interested.

IAEM REGION I CONFERENCE

The International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Region I Conference will take place at the UMass Campus Center Auditorium, 1 Campus Way, Amherst on June 4, 2015. The Conference, entitled 'Leading in Crisis' will cover such topics as Leadership, the Revere Tornado response & recovery, the US Coast Guard's role in emergency management, and Public Health. For additional details and registration, go to <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events-Region1-June2015>.

WILDFIRE DANGERS

The recent combination of high temperatures, low humidity, and warm breezes has elevated the risk Brush and Forest Fires. Wildfires often begin unnoticed, but spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. There are three different classes of wild fires. 1) 'surface fires' are the most common type, burning along the forest floor, moving slowly and killing or damaging trees. 2) 'ground fires' are usually started by lightning, burns on or below the forest floor. 3) 'crown fires' which spread rapidly by the wind, moving quickly by jumping along the treetops. Since 80% of forest fires are started by negligent human behavior, such as smoking in forested areas or improperly extinguishing campfires, most wildfires are preventable. The public is urged to obey all burning regulations set in place by public safety officials. For additional information on wildfire safety, go to: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/ready-massachusetts/wildfires.html>.

NATIONAL DAM SAFETY AWARENESS DAY ON MAY 31

May 31, 2015 is National Dam Safety Awareness Day, an event that commemorates the tragic failure of the South Fork Dam in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. On May 31, 1889, the dam failure resulted in the loss of more than 2,200 lives and was the worst dam failure in the history of the United States. National Dam Safety Awareness Day seeks to promote best practices for dam safety, raise awareness of the benefits that dams offer, and highlight steps that can be taken to prevent future catastrophic dam failures. FEMA is asking dam owners across the nation to help promote dam safety and raise awareness by organizing a National Dam Safety Awareness Day event on (or around) May 31. If you cannot organize an event, consider posting information on your website, sending out an email message to your stakeholders, or sharing some of the messages in the tools with schools.

Template materials, as well as background information on National Dam Safety Awareness Day can be found at <http://engineeringstrongersafer.net/>.

KNOW YOUR RISKS

Spring is a time of transition. Unfortunately, accompanying the changing seasons is a variety of extreme weather. It is an important time to assess your community's risk. Tornadoes, floods, thunderstorm winds, hail, lightning, heat, wildfires, rip currents and tsunamis can be killers for the unprepared. Here's what you need to know about these dangerous hazards:

- Since 2003, 43 states within the continental United States have come under a tornado watch; 49 states have come under severe thunderstorm watches; and lightning strikes occur in every state.
- More than half of the total freshwater flood-related deaths each year result from motorists driving into floodwaters. It only takes 12 inches of water to carry off a small vehicle.
- Heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States, resulting in hundreds of deaths each year. The heat wave of 1995 claimed more than 700 lives in the Chicago area alone.
- In 2014, there were 26 lightning fatalities - six in Florida alone.
- Wildfires kill 30 people, destroy 2,800 homes and burn more than 7 million acres, on average per year.
- The United States Lifesaving Association estimates that more than 100 people each year die in the surf zone waters of the U.S. and that rip currents cause the majority of those fatalities.

In addition to knowing the risks, it is just as important to know what actions to take. For more information: http://www.nws.noaa.gov/com/weatherreadynation/spring_safety.html#.VSfjr_nF-Ck.

MEMA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MEMA is the state agency charged with ensuring the state is prepared to withstand, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies and disasters, including natural hazards, accidents, deliberate attacks, and technological and infrastructure failures. MEMA is committed to an all hazards approach to emergency management. By building and sustaining effective partnerships with federal, state and local government agencies, and with the private sector - - individuals, families, non-profits, and businesses - - MEMA ensures the Commonwealth's ability to rapidly recover from large and small disasters by assessing and mitigating threats and hazards, enhancing preparedness, coordinating response operations, and strengthening our capacity to rebuild and recover.

FOLLOW MEMA AND GET IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

TWITTER - (www.twitter.com/MassEMA), **FACEBOOK** - (www.facebook.com/MassachusettsEMA), **YouTube** - (www.youtube.com/MassachusettsEMA), the **MEMA WEBSITE** - www.mass.gov/mema, **READY MASSACHUSETTS** - www.mass.gov/mema/ready. And do not forget to download **Massachusetts Alerts** app – (www.mass.gov/mema/mobileapp).

